

REMARKS

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner allowed claims 1-9, 33, 37-39, 42, 43, and 45-50, rejected claims 51 and 56, and objected to claims 52-55, 57, and 58, but would allow if rewritten in independent form. By this Response, Applicant hereby amends claims 51, 54, and 56, and cancels claims 52 and 58. Specifically, the Applicant hereby amends independent claims 51 and 56 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of dependent claims 52 and 58, respectively. These amendments do not add new matter. In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of all pending claims.

Interview Summary

On March 22, 2007, the Examiner and Applicant's representative, Tait R. Swanson (Reg. No. 48,226), held a telephonic interview to discuss the claims and outstanding rejection. During this interview, the Applicant's representative agreed to amend independent claims 51 and 56 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of dependent claims 52 and 58, respectively. The Applicant's representative and the Examiner also discussed the status of the currently withdrawn claims 11, 14-17, 19, and 26-32, and the parties agreed that these claims are currently in condition for allowance as discussed in the previous telephonic interview on August 9, 2006. *See* Interview Summary and Amendment and Response to Office Action Mailed June 26, 2006, page 12. For example, as discussed during these telephonic interviews, independent claim 11 recites, *inter alia*, "an electrical insulator disposed between the tube and the metal member; and an insulating material disposed entirely over the tube and metal member." Independent claim 26 recites, *inter alia*, "means for electrically insulating an exterior of the means for storing heat; and means for electrically insulating an interior of the means for storing heat." Independent claim 27 recites, *inter alia*, "a third tubular member disposed between the first and second tubular members, wherein the third tubular member comprises an electrical insulator; and an insulating material disposed about an exterior of the third tubular member." Independent claim 29 recites, *inter alia*, "a first electrical insulator disposed over

the torch head and concentrically about the thermal storage member; and a second electrical insulator disposed concentrically inside the thermal storage member.”

Again, the parties agreed that the withdrawn claims 11, 14-17, 19, and 26-32 are currently in condition for allowance, and the outstanding rejections are moot upon entry of the foregoing amendments to independent claims 51 and 56. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests rejoinder, reconsideration, and allowance of the withdrawn claims 11, 14-17, 19, and 26-32 along with the other claims. In view of this interview summary, and specifically the amendments set forth above, the Applicant submits that independent claims 1, 11, 26, 27, 29, 33, 45, 51, and 56 and their respective dependent claims are now in condition for allowance.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

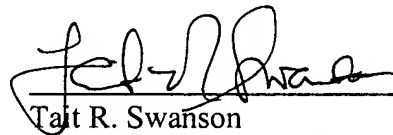
In the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 51 and 56 as anticipated by Anderson (U.S. Patent No. 2,659,796). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections. However, as discussed above, the Applicant hereby amends independent claims 51 and 56 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of dependent claims 52 and 58, respectively. As a result, the foregoing rejection is now moot, and the claims are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims should be in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner believes certain amendments are necessary to clarify the present claims or if the Examiner wishes to resolve any other issues by way of a telephone conference, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 26, 2007

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Tait R. Swanson", is written over a horizontal line.

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